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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [IZ](#) [EN](#)

SUBJECT: ESTONIA: PARLIAMENT EXTENDS IRAQ TROOP  
DEPLOYMENT

On December 19, the Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) voted to extend the mandate for the Estonian troop deployment in Iraq by 12 months (until December 31, 2007). The bill authorized up to 40 troops to participate in the mission. At the moment, Estonia has a total of 40 military personnel serving in Iraq. 34 infantry troops (ESTPLA-14) are assigned to the U.S. 4th Infantry Division near Baghdad, 4 staff officers serve at the headquarters of the multinational brigade and two are participating in the NATO training mission. The bill was passed with an overwhelming majority of 70 votes in favor. Three MPs voted against the bill, two from the Social Democrats and one from the Center Party.

GOLDSTEIN